



Meeting Minutes

SUBJECT: Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee

DATE: May 28, 2010

LOCATION: City Hall, 1st Floor Main Conference Room

FROM: Diane Meyer (Chair)

ATTENDEES: Diane Meyer (Chair), Richard Marx, Peter John Le Blanc Jr, Punit Jain, Stan Braude, Jeffrey Flotken, Andrea Maddox-Dallas (Aldermanic Representative)
Mike Pratt (Staff Liaison), Daneen Schlereth (Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Alex Bornstein, Pamela Fournier

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS

CITY TRASH CONTRACT

Mike informed the committee the Board of Alderman approved the Residential Waste Contract specs and they were at the city attorneys waiting for final approval. They will be available for pick up on June 10, 2010 with bid opening scheduled for July 8th.

A question was asked if they were going to have a separate pick up for compost and if residents would be provided a separate bin. Mike said the compost will be picked up the same time as yardwaste and a separate container will not be provided but they can either use the brown recycling bags or a trash can mark compost.

Richard thought it might be a great idea to provide some type of magnet or sticker like we have for recycling, letting the residents know what can or can not be included in the compost bins.

Mike advised the committee the hauler is to provide a brochure of information to be mailed out to the residents prior to the beginning of the contract, so all that information will be included. The city still has several in the office from Allied Waste that is available for the residents. Mike said he felt great about the new contract and is looking forward to the bid opening.

CLAYTON GREEN POWER COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Diane advised the committee the Board of Alderman agreed to a Green Power Community Challenge. Diane asked Andrea to speak on behalf of the challenge. Andrea informed the committee the challenge is to get our power usage down to 2%. The city is the first in the state of Missouri to take the challenge.

Diane said she met with Cindy Bambini; her company is a silent partner with Pure Power who works with Ameren. Her company is the one that promotes and looks for other power sources. Andrea said the reason they were attracted to Clayton was because of the large office buildings in CBD and all the energy that is being used by them. They thought if they could get some or most of them on board it would be pretty easy to get the 2% they are striving for; however they also want to advertise it to the residents as well. Diane said Cindy suggested some type of survey sent out to our residents; if you look around you can see several homes that have solar panels already and that counts as part of the challenge. Cindy thought our committee would be interested in talking to the school district in building solar panels in the schools. Andrea said she recalls residents can also check a box and pay a little extra on their electric bill and it that will go to buying wind power.

Punit asked if we passed an ordinance and if we did can we have someone come to our next meeting and explain the program a little more to us. Diane said she already asked Cindy but they couldn't make the May meeting; however she said she would love to come and discuss at the next. Diane said Cindy and her both agreed there will come a point in time where across the country we can't have these giant turbines everywhere it will be too cluttered. Cindy said that is where solar is really going to take a part in the rec. We have to get the solar and nuclear power.

Andrea informed Punit that the Board of Alderman did not pass an ordinance; they just passed a resolution to participate in the program.

Punit asked if committing to 2% is just city hall and/or city buildings. Andrea said no it's for the entire city, residents included. Punit said. It's a great goal, but that means you are requiring businesses and residents to participate. Andrea said the city isn't requiring anyone that we are only promoting it. That's why we didn't pass an ordinance it's was just a resolution stating we support it. Diane also said we need to find out who in the city already has energy efficient heating systems and solar panels so they can be added in.

Punit asked if Cindy will do any type of mathematical analysis. Andrea said yes her company does.

Stan said they should also include geothermal, he said there is house on Parkdale that is putting in the pipes underneath the back yard now, so when it pulls air in the summer it's 50 degrees air to cool and then in the winter its pulls in air at 50 degrees to start with.

Punit said he doesn't think geothermal would be considered the same as solar, because it doesn't generate energy, it produces consumption. It's not a source; however it is a green effort.

Diane asked Andrea if there was a time line, if we should try and get Cindy to come to the next meeting. Both Andrea and Mike weren't sure. Mike said he believes they want someone from the committee to be a liaison. Diane said she got the impression that the entire committee would be the liaison.

Diane said she would email Cindy and see if she can come to the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CITY'S POLICY ON PESTICIDES/FERTILIZERS

J.J. discussed with the committee regarding pesticides and fertilizers that municipalities in the area are using in their parks. J.J. said he was trying to get an understanding from a governmental level what authority a municipality has in banning certain pesticides and fertilizers. He said he came to the understanding that the State of Missouri totally disallows any municipality from banning any type of chemical substance. He was shocked that there were over 30 states that disallow it than allow it. He said the entire country of Canada outlawed all outdoor pesticides use and in Europe there are a number of countries that have outlawed it also. He said he was a little disappointed to see that the United States is that far behind. However J.J. said he spoke with Susan Renard from our Parks Department and she said the city is already doing a pretty good job, we are currently using only organic fertilizers, horticultural oils, fatty acid soaps, lady bug larvae and no chemical pesticides. The only chemical the city does use is RoundUp and she said she felt safe using that because its water soluble. J.J. said he thought this information is something the residents should know, that the city is using safe products in our parks and there are safe products out there that you can buy for your own usage instead of the harsh chemical pesticides. Diane agreed.

Stan suggested maybe an article in the City Views from the Parks Department patting themselves on their back for what they already do and also suggesting some type of list of safe fertilizers and pesticides that the residents could use.

Punit asked about permeable pavers.

Mike gave a general synopsis of what permeable pavers are and do, and said the Planning & Development Department looks into those when they have any new development.

Punit asked if it's a requirement and Mike said currently no.

Mike said we need to get started on the Art Fair and what our plans are regarding the contest.

Mike advised the committee we were budgeted \$2000 again, and we might want to start thinking of where or how what we would like to spend it.

Mike informed the committee the city has purchased 2 new Big Bellies, one for outside of Chill at Hanley/Wydown and the other one will be at World News on Central. Andrea asked if we get another one can we place it down in the DeMun area. Mike said we will definitely look into it.

Daneen informed the committee that she had spoken with Tony from Allied regarding the tour of the recycling plant. He said for the committee to give him a couple of dates, it will be in the evening and he will have dinner brought in before the tour. No dates were set yet.

Diane suggested everyone should take the tour its amazing what they do there.

MEETING AJOURNED: at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 5:00pm at Clayton City Hall.

cc: Lenore Toser-Aldaz, Deputy City Manager
Mike Pratt, Director of Public Works
June Waters, City Clerk
Judy Kekich, Economic Outreach Coordinator